• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XXV DECEMBER, 1958 NUMBER 12

General Manager Diemer Addresses Senate Committee

A large scale program of replenishing the dangerously overdrawn underground water basins in Southern California as a vital protection to all water users was urged strongly on December 15 by Robert B. Diemer, General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water District.

Speaking before the Senate Interim Committee on Proposed Water Projects in Riverside, Mr. Diemer recommended that the Legislature authorize the State Water Resources Department to make a careful study of the actual extent of underground water depletion as a safe guide to a major water replenishment program. During the next 10 years or more, he said, large quantities of water for refilling these basins will be available for such a program from the Colorado River Aqueduct of the Metropolitan Water District.

Mr. Diemer said that there is probably a deficiency at the present time of more than 1,500,000 acre-feet in underground storage in the coastal plain. However, he declared that there is a grave lack of data to give a firm and dependable figure as to the actual quantity of water which may be safely restored to the underground basins.

He urged the Senate Committee, headed by Senator Stephen P. Teale, to recommend the appropriation of funds that would permit a comprehensive study by the State Water Resources Department to obtain dependable figures as to the present deficiency in the underground storage in the coastal plain area.

Mr. Diemer pointed out that the District's Colorado River Aqueduct has been in operation since 1941 but, until recently, most District cities and constituent areas chose to pump from the underground basins instead of using water from the District's system.

"From 1941 to 1947 only 178,000

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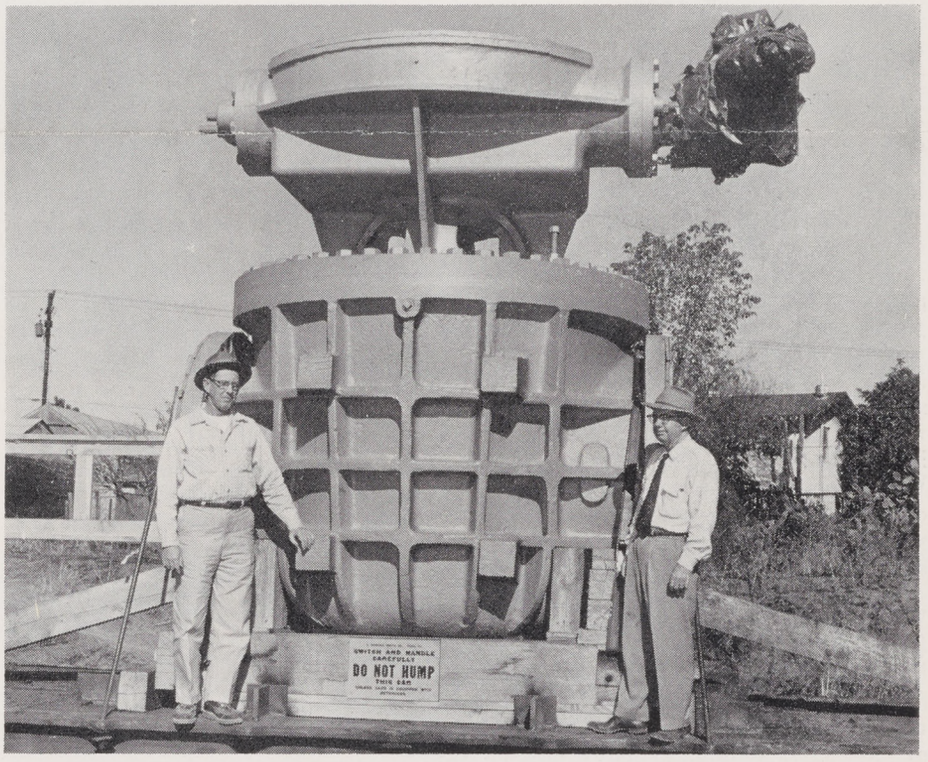

Ray Powell, left, District Senior Inspector, and Glenn Lucas, Resident Engineer, stand by a huge 48-inch conical plug sectionalizing valve on a flat car in a siding at Brea. The big valve is now installed on the Lower Feeder and will serve to isolate one section of the distribution system from another for operation or maintenance purposes. The valve is the largest of its type on the District's distribution system and cost nearly $100,000.

District Grants Informal Approval for Annexation

The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District at its meeting on December 16 granted informal approval to the proposed annexation of a large part of the Upper San Gabriel Valley to the District.

The approval granted by the Metropolitan Water District means that there would be no objection to the annexation if the people of the proposed annexation area form a Municipal Water District to vote on the annexation.

The 145 square mile area has a population of approximately 500,000 and an assessed valuation of more than $600,000,000. The proposed Municipal Water District would include 14 incorporated cities and large unincorporated areas, it was stated by Joseph Jenson, Chairman of the District's Board of Directors.

The successful completion of the annexation proceedings would entitle the Upper San Gabriel Valley to receive Colorado River water which is delivered to Southern California through the Metropolitan Water District's Colorado River Aqueduct.

The incorporated cities within the proposed annexation area are South Pasadena, San Gabriel, Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, Covina, West Covina, Irwindale, Baldwin Park, La Puente, Industry, Bradbury, El Monte, and South El Monte.

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Senate Committee

(Continued from Page One)

acre-feet of water was delivered to Southern California through the Colorado River Aqueduct," Mr. Diemer said. "This was less than 10% of the Aqueduct's initial pumping capacity. From 1941 to 1954, with the then available pumping capacity, it would have been possible to pump more than 5,000,000 acre-feet but only about 1,400,000 acre-feet were delivered to Southern California. There would be no underground water shortage today in the coastal area if the facilities of the Metropolitan Water District had been used instead of continuing to supply a large part of the water needs from the underground basins," Mr. Diemer declared.

He pointed out that the Metropolitan Water District is currently engaged in a $200 million expansion program to bring the Aqueduct and its distribution facilities to the full ultimate delivery capacity of 1,212,000 acre-feet annually or more than a billion gallons a day.

"It is estimated that the Colorado River Aqueduct, when brought to its full ultimate capacity early in 1960, will be able to meet the needs of about 3,500,000 more people. The period of time that will elapse during which the population of this area will be increased by another 3,500,000, of course, cannot be forecast with absolute finality," Mr. Diemer said.

"Based on experience in the Metropolitan Water District and the basic factors that should be taken into account, it appears that the water needs of the people within the service area of the District will require the Colorado River Aqueduct's full delivery capacity by about 1975.

"During the years that day by day requirements of the people are moving toward the aqueduct's full capacity, there will be otherwise unused capacity in the aqueduct for large quantities of water that can be put to use in replenishing this territory's depleted underground water basins," he emphasized.

"I understand that the State Water Resources Department estimates that a study of underground water basins in Southern California could be carried forward adequately at a cost of from $125,000 to $150,000 per year for the next three or four years," Mr. Diemer stated in urging that such appropriation be authorized by the Legislature.

Assistant Chief Engineer Heads Engineering Group

Robert A. Skinner, Assistant Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water District, was installed as President of the Los Angeles Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers on December 10, 1958.

The installation was conducted by Walter H. Cates, the retiring President. Mr. Skinner was elected for a one-year term. He had previously served as a Vice President in 1945.

Mr. Skinner, who has been a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers since 1930, stated that the Society will hold a national convention in Los Angeles from February 8 to 13, 1959. This conference will be attended by members from all parts of the United States and from several other countries.

Many members of the Society have expressed a high degree of interest in the Colorado River Aqueduct, which has been selected by the Society as one of the "Seven Civil Engineering Wonders of the United States."

Mr. Skinner received his engineering education at Cornell University, the U.S. Naval Academy and the University of Southern California. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War I.

He has been in the service of the District for more than 25 years, having first been employed on March 6, 1933, as an Assistant Engineer in the Distribution Section.

During his early years with the District, Mr. Skinner was engaged in work connected with the design, preparation of specifications, and other activities on the construction of the Distribution System.

In 1941 he was named Office Engineer and held this position until 1952 when he was appointed Assistant Chief Engineer. Since that time, his main responsibility has been the immediate supervision of the design and office work in connection with the major portion of the District's $200 million expansion program as well as dealing with operation and maintenance problems on the Colorado River Aqueduct System.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed December, 1958, covering District operations for November, 1958).

Colorado River — The water surface of Lake Mead dropped 2.92 feet to elevation 1,189.60 above sea level and usable storage decreased 408,000 acre-feet to 22,488,000 on November 30 1958. The discharge at Hoover Dam in November averaged 12,300 cubic feet per second as compared with 11,840 in October, 1958. Discharge at Parker Dam in November averaged 10,400 cfs.

Pumping and Power—Hayfield plant delivered 41,340 acre-feet for distribution during November. Pumping was on a 4-pump basis until November 6, on a 3-pump basis until November 22; a 4 pump basis until November 27 and on a 4½ pump basis thereafter. The Parker-Davis system and Hoover power plant were in continuous parallel with the District system. The District's share of Parker energy for November was 20,906,413 kwhrs, all of which was used in the District's system. Edison interchange energy delivered to the District was 21,528,000 kwhrs. Peak deliveries to and from Edison Company were 126,500 and 130,000 kw, respectively.

Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant—Colorado River water was softened from 307 ppm of hardness to 125 ppm at an average rate of 253 cfs. Daily rate of flow varied from a maximum of 324 cfs to a minimum of 224.

Construction—Work on Schedules 76-SC, 77SC and 78SC (Lower Feeder) the contract is 81% complete; on the San Diego Aqueduct Schedules SD8P and SD9P the contract is 61% complete and on Schedules SD10P and SD11SC the contract is 70% complete.

The contract on the installation of Pumping Units 7, 8 and 9 is 46% complete; Pump Delivery Line No. 3 is 90% complete.

Siphon work on main aqueduct (Earp to Whitewater)—Contract 669 was accepted as complete on November 25, and work on Contract 672 is 97% complete.

The contract is 4% complete on Canals and Box Siphons—Schedules 11C, SD1C, SD2C, SD3C and SD4C.

Purchasing—Total expenditures covered by 412 purchase orders and 3 agreements in November aggregated approximately $120,952.

AMONG THE MEN ON THE BIG AQUEDUCT JOB

One of the contracts on the portion of the Second San Diego Aqueduct being constructed by the Metropolitan Water District is held by Vido Artukovich and Son. Shown before a large crane being used to lay pipe are, left to right, Joseph Moulton, MWD Inspector, Tom Day, MWD Chief of Party, W. F. (Mac) McCleary, MWD Resident Engineer, Vido Artukovich, Anthony Artukovich and P. O. Scott, MWD Inspector.

Construction of the canals and box siphons on the expansion of the main Aqueduct and on the Second San Diego Aqueduct is being performed by the Winston Bros. Co. Shown above beside a truck being loaded with forms for the box siphons are, left to right, Don Adams, Project Manager, Bob Deal, Project Engineer, Oarland Rush, MWD Assistant Engineer, and Ben Richards, Carpenter Superintendent.

Shown above are key personnel of the American Pipe and Construction Co., which is constructing pipe siphons on the main Aqueduct and on the Second San Diego Aqueduct. Standing in a 13-foot pipe section which will be used on one of the siphons are, left to right, O. M. Hooper, Vice President of Construction, Jack Johnson, Fabricating Plant Superintendent, Ed Butler, Project Manager, and Clyde Grant, Field Superintendent.

Construction work on the Lower Feeder, which will make additional Colorado River water available to Orange County and southern Los Angeles County, is being performed by Morrison-Knudsen Company, Inc. and Macco Corp. Above are some of the field personnel on the job. Left to right are Cecil Cole, a Field Superintendent, Pete Beall, also a Field Superintendent, Neal Spencer, Project Manager, and Bill McMurren, Project Engineer.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Edith L. Mallery—25 Years of Service.

Edith L. Mallery became eligible for her 25-year service pin on December 6, 1958, having first been employed by the District as a Junior Clerk in the Accounting Division on December 6, 1933, advancing to General Clerk in 1935. From 1944 to 1947 she was Assistant Treasurer of the District, after which she returned to the Accounting Division as an Accountant. In 1955 she was promoted to Senior Accountant, the position she still holds.

In recent years Miss Mallery has specialized in payroll work and matters connected with Retirement System Accounting. Because of her ability and cooperative spirit, she is invaluable to the Accounting Division, and her friendly personality is well-known to all District personnel with whom she associates.

* * *

Greetings to all his former friends in the District were expressed in a recent letter from H. J. (Dick) Dickinson to General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer. Dick served with the District from 1929 to 1938, starting as a Rodman and advancing to Inspector and Chief of Party. Since leaving the District, Dick has been engaged in many large-scale construction programs, including numerous tunnel and pipe line jobs.

* * *

Floyd T. (Tom) Day became eligible for his 25-year service pin on December 18, 1958. Tom was first employed as a Chainman on Aqueduct field surveys on February 11, 1933. After a brief absence in 1934, he returned to the District and worked on the Distribution System as a Surveyor and Inspector on building pipe lines, Cajalco Dam, and Hollywood tunnel.

On completion of the original construction work in 1941, Tom worked for the next six years as Attendant and Operator at the Softening Plant. Since 1947 he has been Chief of Party on survey work for the second unit of the softening plant and on various features of the current expansion program. At the present time, he has responsible charge of several survey parties working on the District's portion of the Second San Diego Aqueduct. Tom is one of the most loyal, efficient, and conscientious workers in the District's field organization.

Floyd T. Day—25 Years of Service.

A large number of District employees are shown at the office Christmas party held in the District headquarters on December 24. Cake, coffee and punch were served and drawings for door prizes were held. Earlier in the day District General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer held open house in his office and District employees dropped in to exchange Season's Greetings and to sample candy and cigarettes attractively arranged by Agnes Dunning, Mr. Diemer's Secretary.